

Categorical Exclusion (CX) For
Department of Energy/ National Nuclear Security Administration
Office of Emergency Response
Training Exercises, Drills and Simulations

The DOE/NNSA Office of Emergency Response (NA-42) Exercise Program is responsible for validating the readiness of equipment, personnel, and protocols associated with NA-42's emergency response mission.

Under this program, the Office of Emergency Response proposes to conduct a series of training exercise, drills and simulations that will involve the alert, mobilization, and deployment of DOE search and render safe assets to support state, local and federal emergency response and law enforcement organizations at various locations nation-wide. These exercises, drills and simulations would involve emergency response operations scenarios centered upon locating and securing radiological materials and implementing actions to minimize the impacts of these materials on people and the environment.

The proposed actions would involve inter-organizational coordination in planning and conducting training exercise events, drills and simulations for various locations, including public areas throughout the nation. Training exercise actions would include simulating various emergency situations and circumstances that could occur with radiological materials. Limited quantities of radiological material could be used during the conduct of the training exercise events, drills and simulations. The radiological material used would present no risk to the public and would be controlled in compliance with federal, state and local environmental, health and safety regulations.

Training exercises, drills and simulations would involve hands on practice in operations using emergency response vehicles and equipment and communications systems belonging to DOE and other federal, state and local agencies and organizations. In order to evaluate responder readiness, exercises may be conducted on a "no notice basis" where advance knowledge of training event time, location and scenario prior to implementation would be limited to event coordinators, training staff and officials responsible for authorizing the conduct of such events. (During the training events, public communications announcements would be made to minimize impacts on the public and ally concerns.) Training exercise topics and activities would include detection and monitoring of radiological and/or related hazardous materials; emergency categorization and reporting procedures; staging area management; hazard containment; traffic control and evacuation related activities and/or clean-up actions.

The proposed actions may produce noise typical of emergency response operations and disrupt normal traffic patterns and commerce, for periods of short duration only, in the vicinity of the training events and would produce minimal amounts of waste. Any wastes generated would be disposed of in existing permitted /approved waste storage, treatment, and/or disposal facilities. The proposed actions may be evaluated or observed by pollution prevention or other responsible personnel for action options to reduce or eliminate generation of waste materials depending on the venue and scenario.

To ensure that sensitive resources are protected, existing maps and surveys/studies on threatened and endangered (T/E) species, wetlands and floodplains and historically sensitive areas and archeological sites would be used to locate and avoid these areas. In addition, personnel responsible for identifying these resources would be consulted and, if warranted, additional survey and walkovers would be conducted to confirm or update available information. Where indicated, in accordance with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 reviews would be performed, to ensure the protection and preservation of historic sites.

B1.2 (Training Exercises and Simulation) is the applicable Categorical Exclusion (CX) that covers the proposed action in DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

No known extraordinary circumstances would be associated with these actions that might affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposed actions based on past similar actions. These actions would not be connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts nor would they be related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts; and are not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

The proposed actions would meet the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions which may be categorically excluded from further NEPA documentation. The proposed actions would not disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum and natural gas products excluded from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases. They would not result in adverse effects to historic properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and would not impact sensitive resources (e.g., threatened and endangered (T/E) species, wetlands and floodplains). Nor would these proposed actions threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders.

Should any unique and required training event or activity to be conducted under this program not meet the conditions for CX consideration, i.e. should the training action or related/cumulative effects have the potential to result in an unusual or significant impact to the environment) a separate specific NEPA analysis would be performed and documented.

Based on my review, I have determined that the proposed actions are categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Mary E. Martin, NNSA HQ NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 9, 2010